PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WHAT'S INSIDE

BUSINESS / B1
MVP offers to buy MRT for $1.1B

WORLD / A27
Monster winter storm takes aim at US

NEWS / A2
New witness vs Dominguez

ENTERTAINMENT / E1
Papa Piolo: KC is taken



Heidi support snowballs

Auditor details money trail

By Cynthia D. Balana and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Gutierrez stands by Garcia deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.



SHATTERED IMAGE

Soldiers dismayed by reports of huge 'pabaon' for top brass

By Julie Alipala, Edwin Fernandez and Frinston Lim

Hailed for raising Pinoys a notch higher

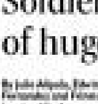
By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Jocelyn R. Uy and Marlon Ramos

LIKE A BRIGHT lamp, former state auditor Heidi Mendoza yesterday shone light on a trail of corruption in the military her superiors and the military brass would rather leave in the dark, drawing praise from a public hungry for honest people in government.

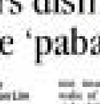
She vows to run naked on QC streets

By Leila B. Salaverria

Trillanes: Reyes is 'powerful man' behind Garcia



REYES



TRILLANES

By Christian V. Esguerra and Julie M. Aurelio



Is Isafp now into foreign exchange?

By Fe Zamora

Egypt Army promises not to fire on protesters

Second FrontPage



EZ2: 18 8 · 4 5 · 3 25

SIX DIGIT: 8 1 8 0 2 9

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN: 7 23 25 30 39 42 — P9,395,281.80

SWERTRES: 8 5 0 · 4 7 1 · 1 7 1

SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 7 23 31 37 44 46 — P53,204,917.60

ALLEGED EVANGELISTA SLAY BRAINS

New witness vs Dominguez

POLICE HAVE presented a new witness who claims to have seen alleged car-theft gang leader Raymond Dominguez visit the shop of Venson Evangelista a day before the latter's abduction last month.

Taxi drive

Dominguez alibi

KFR syndicates

Palace all set for EO on GOCC perks

By [illegible]

[illegible]

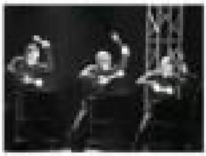
Maynilad Sets a World Record













Filipinos have another reason to be proud as the country's own Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) made world history by setting a new Guinness World Records™ feat last January 31, 2011.

In a gathering of more than 2,000 guests, Maynilad employees rocked the SMX Convention Center by using water pipes to play out a rhythm of beats in unison, which earned them the record of "Largest Pipe Drum Ensemble". London-based Guinness World Records™ adjudicator Kimberley Dennis witnessed the event.

The record-setting victory was among the highlights of Maynilad's 2011 Customer Service Rally graced by the company's Board of Directors headed by Maynilad Chairman Mr. Manny V. Pangilinan and Board Member Mr. Jorge A. Consunji, together with Maynilad's top leaders led by Mr. Ricky P. Vargas, President and Mr. Herbert M. Consunji, Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Vargas proudly congratulated and encouraged everyone to continue to move together as one team as they bring safe, reliable, and affordable water to Filipino families. "We can do all of these if we have the correct mindset," Vargas said. "We have to continue to put our customers first."

According to Mr. Chris Lichauco, Head of Business Operations, the Guinness record that Maynilad has set is symbolic of how everyone's participation, hard work, and dedication are key to achieving a common goal. "The last three years has been all about breaking records for Maynilad. This year is the most ambitious yet," Lichauco added, as he shared the company's various plans to further improve its services, such as infrastructure, service area expansion and customer service, among others.

Special guest and famed motivator Bo Sanchez also shared a few moving words that both inspired and delighted Maynilad employees while celebrity Ryan Agoncillo fired up the crowd with his charming hosting skills.

The event was conceptualized and organized with help from Y&R Philippines, Inc. (Y&R Phils.), a through-the-line agency that counts events management among its various services. "We are truly honored to have been part of this momentous occasion," says Y&R Phils. COO Mary Buenaventura.

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is owned and managed by DMCI-MPIC Water Company, Inc. (DMWCI), a joint venture between Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) and DMCI Holdings Inc. (DMCIHI).

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) provides water and wastewater services to the cities of Manila (all but portions of San Andres & Sta. Ana), Quezon City (west of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional, Mindanao Avenue, the northern part starting from the Districts of the Holy Spirit & Batasan Hills), Makati (west of South Super Highway), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon, all in Metro Manila; Cavite City, and the towns of Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in the Cavite province.

Brillantes asks P-Noy to fill new vacancies

By Jerome Aning

Confirmation

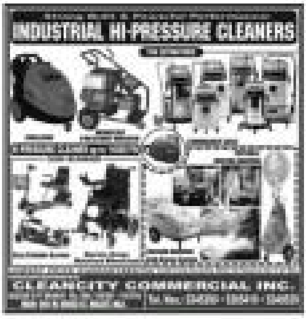
IT expert

Options



COMPULSORY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kindergarten now a must for 5-year-olds

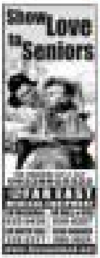






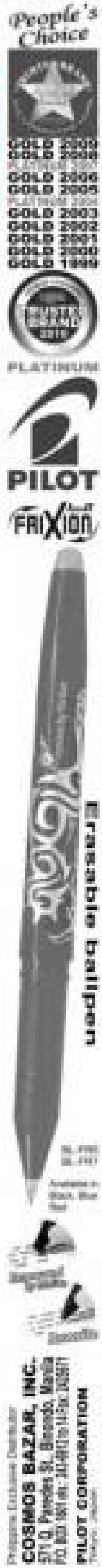
DOJ eyes raps vs soldiers in Co slay











Heidi support snowballs

Trending topic

Plea bargain

Manifesto of support

Common good

Fighting giants

Palace support

Witness protection program

Brave

Honest toil

She vows to run naked on Quezon City streets

Naked through the streets

Heavy toll

Demolition job

Auditor details money trail

3 accounts

'Cover-up'

'Smoking gun'

$5M also missing

Don't bother

'Offerings'

Japanese nabbed

By Jerome Aning

THE BUREAU of Immigration (BI) yesterday said it has arrested a Japanese fugitive wanted for arranging fake marriages between Japanese men and Filipino women to enable the latter to legitimize their stay in Japan.

Immigration officer in charge Ronaldo Ledesma, in a statement, said the bureau will deport Yoshifumi Fujii, 49, who was arrested on Jan. 24 at the BI main office in Intramuros, Manila, while trying to extend his expired visa.

Alleged misuse of UN funds under probe

Trouble spots

Cavaliers rally behind their besieged classmates

Soldiers dismayed by reports of huge 'pabaon' for top brass

Shocking

Death on battlefield

Goggles, not press release

Low morale

Unfair

Break tradition

Allowances, combat pay

No funds for small house

Trillanes: Reyes is 'powerful man' behind Garcia

Level playing field

PCDA abolished in 2005

Home buyer files suit vs Delfin Lee

CA: Ampatuan Sr. is not off the hook

By Nikko Dizon

DFA open to lifting of OFW ban in Iraq

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is not ruling out the possibility of lifting the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The DFA, which heads an inter-agency committee assessing the security situation of Filipino migrant workers in the two war-torn countries, was "open-minded" on the issue but would have to wait for the recommendation of the committee, said spokesperson Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya.

"The Philippine government values opportunities for Filipino labor in overseas markets," like Iraq and Afghanistan, Malaya said.

OFWs' safety

But he said it has to "ensure the safety, security and welfare of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) wherever they may be deployed," in accordance with the provisions of the Migrant Workers Act, or RA 8042.

"These factors will be among those that will be considered when the inter-agency committee evaluates developments in countries like Iraq," said Malaya.

RA 8042 imposes heavy penalties on government officials who allow the deployment of migrant workers without the guarantees required by law.

According to some DFA insiders, the Philippine embassy in Baghdad is in favor of lifting the ban.

Malaya said he had "seen a report from them [the embassy] lately," but did not elaborate.

Reconstruction

Last week, Iraqi Ambassador Wadee al-Batti called on the Philippines to lift its travel and labor ban on Baghdad, saying OFWs can gain by taking part in his country's reconstruction.

Al-Batti pointed out that peace and order had greatly improved in Iraq since the ban was imposed in 2004.

The envoy said Iraq, or any country for that matter, could guarantee against terrorist attacks.

He said Iraq needed at least three million new houses, thousands of schools and more than 100 hospitals.

Some 4,000 OFWs are currently based in Iraq despite the labor ban.

They were supposed to have been repatriated to Manila last December, but their US and other foreign employers allowed them to stay and finish their work contracts as recommended by the DFA-led panel.

The committee also groups the Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Appeal to Palace

OFWs in both Iraq and Afghanistan earlier appealed to Malacañang to lift the labor deployment ban. They pointed out that Nepal had already lifted its travel ban on Iraq.

But the DFA-led committee recommended against it because of the unstable security situation in the two countries.

A top DFA official, who asked not to be named, said the foreign office would ask the employers of OFWs in Afghanistan to "allow our workers to stay until they finish their contracts just like their counterparts in Iraq."

"Our goal is to prevent a massive repatriation of OFWs," the source added.

There are more than 6,000 OFWs in Afghanistan.

Aside from Iraq and Afghanistan, the government also bans the deployment of Filipino workers to Nigeria, Somalia, Lebanon and Jordan.

6 in noodle scam ordered suspended

By Leila B. Salaverria

OMBUDSMAN Merceditas Gutierrez yesterday ordered the preventive suspension of six Department of Education (DepEd) officials over the allegedly irregular procurement of noodles for students.

The officials ordered preventively suspended for six months without pay were Undersecretary and then Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) chair Teodosio Sangil Jr., then BAC Vice-Chairperson [illegible], then BAC members [illegible], and their officer in charge [illegible].

The officials are facing charges of graft, violation of the government procurement act and [illegible] the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

They were also administratively charged with dishonesty, grave misconduct, conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, gross neglect of duty and violation of reasonable office rules and regulations.

The Ombudsman's Field Investigation Office, in its complaint against the DepEd officials had alleged that the officials had been behind the anomalous and irregular procurement of fortified instant noodles with fresh eggs, which would be used for the department's Food for School Program in 2007 and 2008.

Corrections

IN THE JAN. 25 ISSUE, a front page story—"[illegible]"—misstated that this year is the Year of the Pig. This year is the Year of the Rabbit.

* * *

IN THE JAN. 26 ISSUE, a front page story—"[illegible] 75th birthday"—misspelled the surname of a former press undersecretary. The former press undersecretary's name is [illegible]—not [illegible].

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Metro story on Page A23—"[illegible]"—misspelled the name of a shrine near Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City, where a recent demolition led to violence that left around 50 people injured. The shrine's name is [illegible]—not [illegible].

* * *

IN THE JAN. 28 ISSUE, a story on Page A4—"[illegible]"—misspelled the surname of the governor of [illegible] in Maguindanao. The governor's name is [illegible] Mangudadatu—not Mangundadatu. The same story misspelled the surname of [illegible] sister. Her name is [illegible] Mangudadatu—not Mangundadatu.

The same story misstated the number of bodies recovered from the massacre site in Maguindanao. A total of 57—not 56—bodies were recovered from the massacre site.

* * *

IN THE JAN. 29 ISSUE, a photo on Page F1 of the Lifestyle section carried the erroneous caption: "New recruits in training; Fil-Scottish McMahon (left) admits to be a romantic." It should have read: "New recruits in training; Fil-Scottish McMahon (right) admits to being a romantic."

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, an article on Page B2-1 of the Property section—"A fresh look at the middle market"—misnamed the category of a 2009 weather disturbance. "Ondoy" was a tropical storm—not a typhoon.

* * *

IN THE FEB. 1 ISSUE, a Metro story on Page A17—"State of calamity declared in Navotas barangay"—misstated that the city council approved a resolution declaring a state of calamity in Barangay San Roque in Navotas City. It was the barangay council that approved the resolution "to facilitate the release of P250,000 from the calamity fund."

The Daily Gospel

FEBRUARY 2 (Wednesday)
Feast: Presentation of the Lord
Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

1st Reading: Mal 3:1-4

Gospel: Lk 2:22-32 (or 2:22-40)

Reflection:

INQUIRER

OPINION

Untouchable

EDITORIAL



JPE, Erap writing memoirs

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

Party to the crime

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

'Imelda Marcos of the Arab world'

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



Rabbits and hares

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



Inner, secret animals

Leaping forms

A new battleground

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



Rizal's Chinese dinner menu

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



Betrayal of public trust

LETTERS

Roxas without mandate to oppose Brillantes' appointment to Comelec

Reform employment program for nurses

Who are still on the list of Marcos claimants?

Across the NATION

Floods force 150,000 out of homes

Evacuation comes barely month after people displaced in Caraga areas

BUTUAN CITY—Floods brought by relentless rains since Sunday forced at least 150,000 people to flee their homes again barely a month after being displaced also by floods here and several villages in the Caraga region.



Baguio chills as 16th flower festival starts

Civilians die, cop wounded in NPA attack in Agusan Sur

Rebels own up assassination of Quezon town cop

Davao enforcing tough waste segregation rules





EL VERDE

12 million trees by 2012

Governor Lray Villafuerte launches the grassroots initiative to improve the environment and increase food production.

500,000 Trees in One Hour



We need you



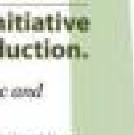
Lray Villafuerte, Camarines Sur Governor

PLANT A TREE, STUDY FOR FREE

We are inviting Public and Private Partners

BACK TREE SCHOOL

The El Verde Movement's Green Legacy



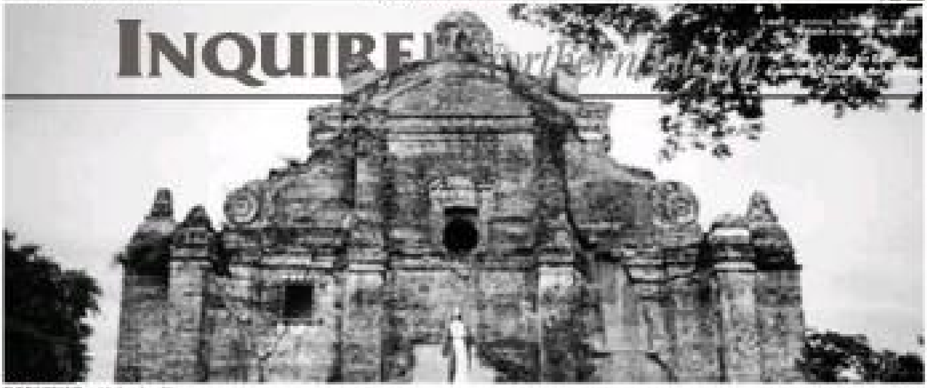
The Philippines will be Asia's Green Capital

12 Million Trees by 2012 is only the beginning.

Everyday is Earth Day At CamSur

www.elverdemovement.com

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

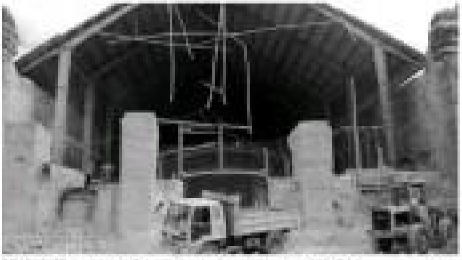


THE DINGRAS Church before demolition.

Historic church rehab splits Dingras folk

By Cristina Arzadon
Dingras, Ilocos Norte

THE LAST VESTIGE of the most historic edifice of Dingras, Ilocos Norte, has been reduced to rubble with the demolition of the old Dingras church's façade in an effort to rehabilitate the centuries-old structure.



DEMOLISHED church façade: Rehabilitation plan is acceptable, says an NHI official.

Debate

'Unreconstructable'

'Not demolition'

Smoked meat adds to tourism draw of Sagada

WHEN ONE SEES smoke billowing [in villages in Sagada, Mt. Province] ... it's a good bet someone is preparing etag (smoked pork)," says Sagada Mayor Eduardo Latawan Jr.

HOMETOWN Snapshot

Cultural delicacy

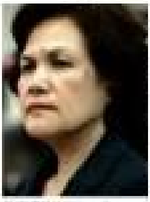
Native pigs



In Pangasinan, harvesting rain for irrigation

THE EASTERN Pangasinan town of Bani has decided to gather and impound rainwater, and to dam spring water from a mountain, so its farmers would have a sufficient irrigation resource.

Gutierrez stands by Garcia plea bargain deal



No animosity

Not enough evidence

Court should decide

Is Isafp now into foreign exchange?

The Emperor

No bank account

Travel expenses

Egypt Army promises not to fire on protesters





No absolute zoo

Fear of radical Islam

Unified leadership

DFA ready to evacuate Pinoys in Cairo

By Jerry E. Esplanada

Married to Egyptians

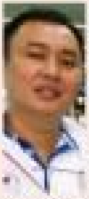
SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic B. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Surging SMB tipped to nail vital 3-2 lead



Huge ticket sales ensure new Pacman blockbuster



TOLENTINO: Let's help each other out

Cycling chief appeals to PSC: Spare the athletes

By Juan Manuel

Grizzlies, Jazz subdue rivals



BUCKS forward Corey Maggette drives a ball from Clippers center DeAndre Jordan. AP

Patriots fine-tuning for ABL title defense

Go: Karate federation's ouster resolution invalid

By Juan Manuel

SPORTSWATCH

'Big Event' cockfest set at WTJ

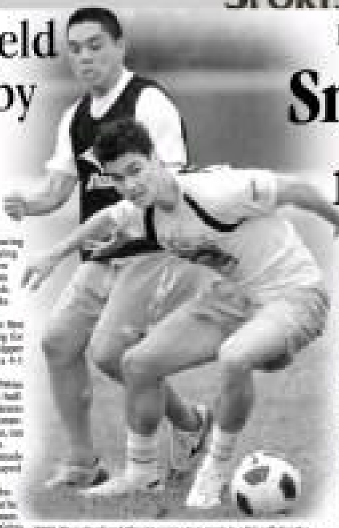
Concrete Breaker derby Feb. 4

Samantila tops MCC Kiddies

RACING PICKS

By TOP CHOICE

Azkals held to draw by Negros booters



P80-M DOLEOUT

Smart won't get naming rights

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Top female golfers test Bacolod layout



ARDINA

Regional golf tourneys stake Philippine Am slots

The Veteran vs The Rookie

Heart, Soul, Sports



Prisaa board resets Games' date, venue

Patrombon now world No. 9 in juniors ranks

Mariano speaheads La Salle cue charge




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is yours.
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MEGAWORLD

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Did you know



YVONNE CHUA CASE

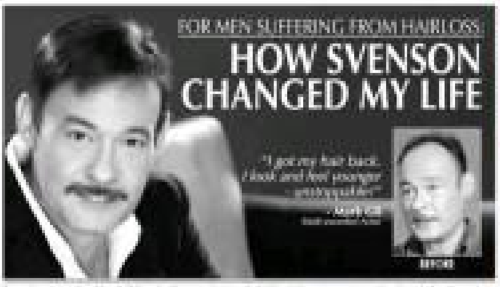
Bomb courier charged

THE POLICE yesterday filed charges of murder and frustrated murder against a woman who allegedly delivered a gift-wrapped box containing grenades to the house of Yvonne Chua in Parañaque City on Dec. 28.



SLICES OF HONEY

'Gondolas used by contractor had no permits'





DPWH launches crackdown on overloaded trucks

By Philip C. Tubeza



DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways personnel weigh a trailer truck on Bonifacio Drive, Manila, on the first day of a nationwide crackdown on overloaded cargo trucks.

Las Piñas car dealers, police agree on safety measures; SUV stolen in Makati

By Miko Morelos and Tina G. Santos

Safe Chinese New Year assured in Manila

By Jaymee T. Gamil



STUDENTS from Lakandula High School in Tondo, Manila, rehearse their dance number at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park where a countdown to the Chinese New Year will be held tonight.

METROBRIEFS

₱100-M shabu seized from 2 Chinese men

Feb. 14 a holiday in Parañaque City

Fire hits Caloocan warehouse; 2 hurt

'Gondolas . . .'

From page A1

Hunt on for robber who took ₱7M

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A diabetic's birthday wish



GENDHO

Taguig pols resume ballot box war

By Miko Morelos

Monster winter storm takes aim at US

Sokor leader hints at talks with North

Cyclone 'Yasi' threatens Australia's coastal cities



Judge strikes down Obama health care plan

WorldBriefs

Aristide return worries aid donors

Mandela recovering well

Illinois gov signs historic civil unions law

Guggenheim impersonation scam



Japan volcano erupts with big blast of ash

The World

Sudanese activists mourn first 'martyr'

KHARTOUM—A student in Sudan died from his injuries after being beaten by security forces who broke up antigovernment demonstrations inspired by protests in neighboring Egypt, activists said.

Three activists told Reuters that Mohamed Abdelrahman, a student from Khartoum's Omdurman Ahlia University died in hospital from his injuries late on Sunday and had been buried.

The university has been closed indefinitely.

It was the first reported death in student protests that have erupted in several cities.

On Sunday night, students at Khartoum University were beaten and teargassed in their dormitories with at least five injured.

Protests were also held in al-Obeid town in the west and Kassala in the east, with hundreds of young people being beaten by police with batons, activists said.

Witnesses said at least six universities in the capital and Sudan's regions were surrounded on Monday by hundreds of heavily armed police, preventing students from leaving the grounds.

University students in three towns in the north tried to emerge to protest but were quickly arrested or beaten back by armed police, they said.

"You are our martyr Mohamed Abdelrahman," activists wrote on the social networking site Facebook, on a group called "Youth for Change" which has more than 15,000 members and calls for an end to President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's government.

On Sunday, police spokesperson Ahmed Tabaani denied excessive force had been used, and a police statement on Monday said they had received no reports of any death.

Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha said protests were allowed. "But they must be done within the legal framework," he told reporters on Monday. Public gatherings without prior permission are illegal in Sudan. But security forces rarely [illegible] approve protests opposing government policies. *Reuters*

IN THIS ISSUE

- Biz Buzz: Making a statement /B2
- Gov't moves to cushion impact of rising oil prices /B6
- Banks' lending rates fell in Dec. /B7
- US factory data buoys Asian stocks /B8

Editor Raul O. Manalo • Assistant Editor Camille B. Marietta

BUSINESS

MVP offers to buy MRT for $1.1B

Pledges $300M to expand train system

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE giant Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) has offered to buy the government's stake in the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) 3 train line traversing Edsa for $1.1 billion.

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

44.210



STOCK MARKET

50.98



Stocks sink deeper

$2-B investments seen from Middle East, Europe

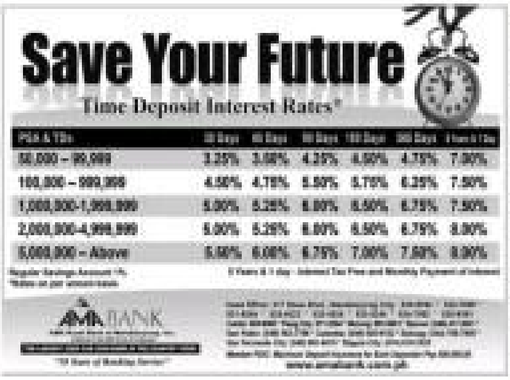
Treasury rejects all bids for seven-year bonds



Korean firm revives ethanol bid

$300-M production facility in Luzon





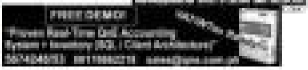


Making a statement

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

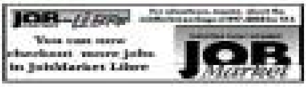
MVP offers to buy MRT

Stocks sink deeper



$2-B investments . . .

Treasury rejects bids . . .



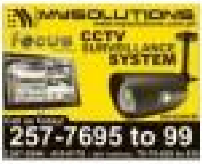








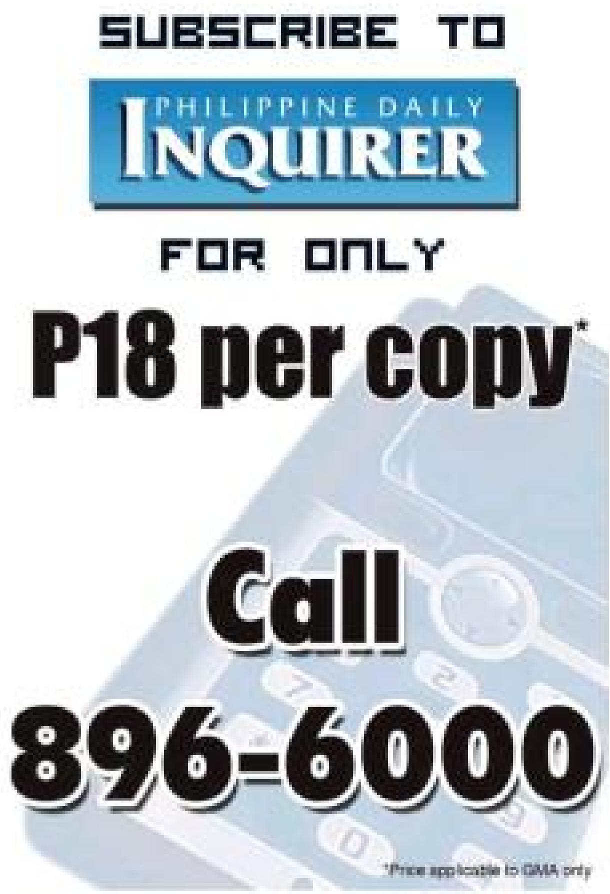






PR Gaz partners with FastTrack to implement SAP All-in-One Solution





ERRATUM

In the advertisement of the Land Registration Authority, Amendment to the Implementing Guidelines on Electronic Registration of Chattel Mortgage and Other Personal Properties, Electronic Recording of Transactions on Unregistered Land, and Electronic Registration of Land Titles and Deeds published yesterday, February 1, 2011, the date of the amendment should have read "Done in Quezon City, this 21st day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven", and not as published.

Our Apologies

More Classifieds on pages

POEA A11
Bulacan State University B3
Court of Tax Appeals B7
PELCO B7

OBITUARIES

MELCHOR M. GERODIAS

of San Pedro, Laguna and South San Francisco, CA, USA

His remains lie in state at Divine Mercy Viewing Chapels, National Highway, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 05, 2011 at Southern Cross Memorial, Maharlika Road, Barangay San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna.

Teresa "Boy" Aguilar Campos Jr.

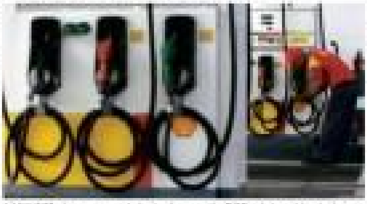
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

BUSINESS



Gov't moves to cushion impact of rising oil prices

Eyes LPG for jeepneys, electricity for tricycles





BPI '10 profit jumps 33%

Resources up 21% to P877B, capitalization hit P210B

Property firm incurred net loss of ₱493M in '10

FLI launching P13B worth of projects

Disclosures

Phoenix buying Subic Petroleum

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

Banks' lending rates fell in Dec.

Decline said to stem from fierce competition in banking industry

By Michelle V. Remo

[illegible]

Spanish firm to buy carbon credits from PH company

[illegible]

Petron, Shell bag ₱3.51B in gov't deals

By Amy R. Remo

[illegible]



FISH TRADE AGRICULTURE [illegible]

Banks' resources up by 9%

[illegible]

Goings-on

UP-Diliman tops CFA's investment research challenge

[illegible]

Globe vies for Global Mobile Awards

[illegible]

Isuzu CDO is dealer of the year

[illegible]

Security Bank cited

[illegible]





BUSINESS

Imbalances dangerous for recovery, IMF warns

US factory data buoys Asian stocks

Crude oil steadies after topping $100 on concerns over Egypt



ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE

Inflation dilemma deepens for Asia's policymakers

Coke adds $1-B brand to portfolio



MOTORING

Editor Jong R. Arcano

Can cars and trees co-exist?

Architect and urban planner Felino A. Palafox, Jr. suggests that the Land Transportation Office require everyone who registers a motor vehicle to plant 10 trees for every car he or she owns.

ON THE ROAD



Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

OFFSET

BURN





Manual or Matic?

The Mitsubishi ASX, from the ladies' point of view















Matic-or-manual dilemma

Jet-fighter grille

Costs to be ready for





SPACIOUS

LED there be light



Botchi Santos





Subaru Legacy GT: Battle Wagon





Can cars and trees co-exist?

Utility is not a concern

BMW X6 is an unholy combination of sports coupe and SUV





LIFESTYLE Parenting

Mom's guide to surviving midget league basketball

We moms must put on a brave, stoic front and exert superhuman effort to be silent if our presence at the games is to be tolerated

BY THE TIME you read this, the fate of my son's basketball team in two Metro Manila leagues will have been decided. But whether or not their Midgets team makes it to the championships in either, I will have been an authority in Coping with Adversity 101.

[illegible]

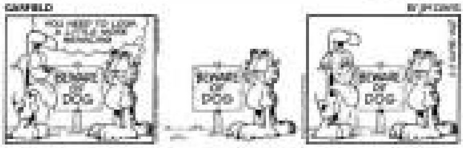
No softness

[illegible]

'Shoelace!'

[illegible]

GARFIELD





PUGAD BABOY

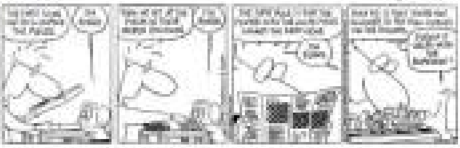


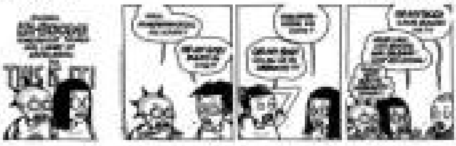
DICK TRACY





BABY BLUES



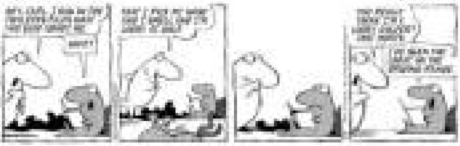


BEN





SHERMAN'S LAGOON





HOROSCOPE

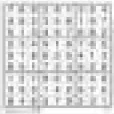
CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

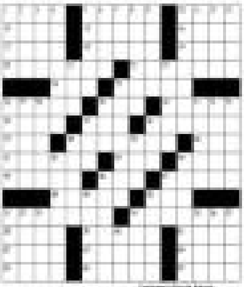
Concepts Sudoku

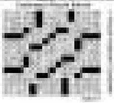
			3	4	2			
		8				9		
		1				5		
	2	7	6	9	5	3	4	
	1						6	
	3			8			5	
	7			3			9	
	8						2	
		4	2	5	7	8		

Difficulty Level ● ● ●



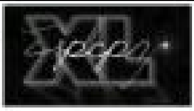
CROSSWORD PUZZLE





More confessions of 'tiger' children

Fair, Talent Fest fire up SPC-Pasig's Ruby Year







Kids learn math, reading—and how to clean up their mess



My search for the perfect preschool continues, as I investigate the Montessori method

Mom's guide to surviving midget league basketball





More confessions of 'tiger' children

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Do-it-yourself



AN OLD Portuguese carved planter is filled with coffee-table books you or your guests can just reach for.



POLISH an old Chinese wooden tub and fill with mirrored balls to brighten a corner; a rectangular version displays magazines perfectly.



Use mirror balls to reflect light; old planters become magazine holders

How to display old stuff in a new way

THERE'S NO need to go out and buy new stuff to fill up odd corners.

Repurpose old planters into interesting containers for magazines and books. Throw in some old pillows, and you've got a cool, cozy niche your pet can jump on to take a snooze!

To brighten a corner, pile up mirror balls that reflect romantically on your ceiling at night.

By using these clever tricks to display objects, you'll fall in love with your old furniture all over again!





A wealth of ways to celebrate the Chinese New Year

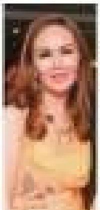








You can put on good luck in the Year of the Metal Rabbit



Marina Allen used feng shui to rebound from a bad marriage and an unhappy life. Now, she's showing people what to festoon themselves with to keep negative vibes away













On coin shortage, consumers say 'enough is enough'

THE CONSUMER

Linda B. Bolido

ANG LIWANAG NG BUKAS

Meralco powers an island to brighten more lives.



Mention the word Meralco and a few images immediately come to mind.

An electric meter.

A row of electric poles.

A light bulb.

A switch.

In a single word: ELECTRICITY.

This is expected. After all, as the country's undisputed power provider for over a hundred years, Meralco shaped the cityscape with electric lines, pioneering the electrification of cities and rural areas alike.

Indeed, with Meralco, life has light.

But is this all there is to it? Is Meralco just about powering appliances and gadgets, electrifying remote areas and lighting up streets?

Definitely not.

At Meralco, it's more than just providing power. It's providing people with a better way of life. And perhaps no one can attest to this more than the people of Talim, a dagger-shaped island at the heart of Laguna de Bay.



Sparking an entrepreneurial spirit



Generating hope of Talim island



Developing the fishing industry



Heading towards empowerment

ISLAND IN THE DARK

Talim Island is a far-flung strip of land seemingly cut off from the rest of the country by mountains and a lake. Electricity in this remote community was nearly non-existent and only very few had access to generators that provided limited power supply. Island entertainment was a wooden guitar, good friends and laughter. Cooking was not as effortless though - building fires required a watchful eye and the cooperation of the unpredictable weather. The rest of the island's daily activities - like fishing, farming, sewing and tending to livestock - was not quite easy as well. Everything had to be done quickly before sunset - a time that came far too soon not just for the hardworking folk but for the children too, who wished they could play or study their lessons just a little bit more.

> "Life then was simple. And as some islanders candidly admit, very difficult. Until Meralco came along."

Life then was simple. And as some islanders candidly admit, very difficult. Until Meralco came along.

THE ISLAND COMES TO LIFE

> "Meralco takes the next step from simply providing power to becoming a guiding light to its customers, the community and the country."

The moment electricity sparked into Talim, change spread throughout the island like wildfire. Livelihoods boomed into full-fledged businesses. Fishermen were now able to store their catch in freezers and farmers could now keep their produce fresher for longer. Cooking became easier and leftovers were not put to waste. Students could also study longer and help in the chores long after twilight.

An entrepreneurial spirit caught on amongst the islanders, too. With a consistent power supply, many put up their own sari-sari stores and served ice-cold drinks, helping augment the household income to put their children through school. That's why today, Talim hums not just with music (probably from one of the neighbor's newly installed karaoke machines) but more importantly, with productivity and a renewed sense of vitality.

The people are happier, of course. The once sleepy island literally came to life not just with light but with joy. As one of the residents excitedly shared, "Nang nagka-kuryente na kami, ilaw ang una kong binuksan... Parang ako nagbukas ulit ng regalo. Ganun ako kasaya." ("When we finally got electricity, the first thing I switched on was the light. I felt as if I were opening a gift! I was that happy.")

Talim is just one of the many communities that Meralco has radically transformed through its dedicated service. Today it is more passionate than ever to help even more communities



Building up businesses

not just by providing electricity but by staying committed to its mission: Energizing progress. Empowering people. And at a time when we are faced with new challenges ahead, sparking hope.

United by a shared vision and guided by a common set of values and strategies, Meralco takes the next step from simply providing power to becoming a guiding light to its customers, the community and the country. As it continues to power and empower, we can only look forward to a bigger and better tomorrow.

With Meralco, the future is brighter indeed.

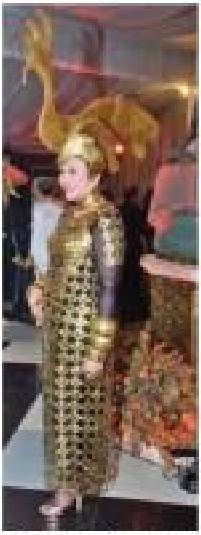


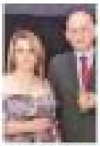
Lighting up progress for an even brighter tomorrow

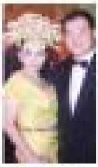




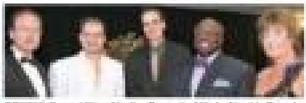




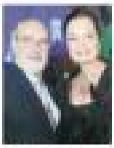


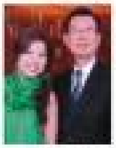




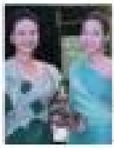












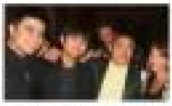
Mellie A. parties with the gods and goddesses

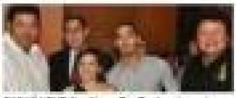
WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH





With over 500 wines and spirits at The Great Wine Experience, nobody wanted to leave







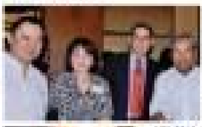




The evolution of the Grand Wine Experience





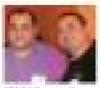














ENTERTAINMENT

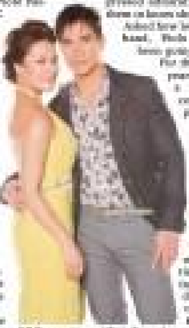






$2-M LOOK

Papa Piolo: KC is taken



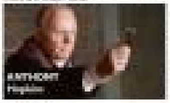
KC Concepcion and Piolo Pascual





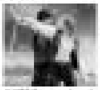
Opening Today

Bulong



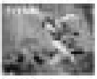
ANTHONY Hopkins

The Rite



KATE Bosworth and Jang Dong Gun

The Warrior's Way



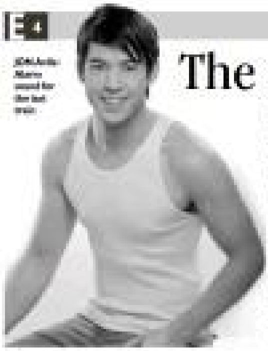
Tangled



JULIANNE Hough and Kristen Bell

Burlesque

The sounds and scents of V-Day, 2


JERICHO Rosales: Sound of the last train

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal



SINCE IT'S THE second day of the love month, we romantic Pinoys are already in a Valentine mood. Whether Feb. 14 is a red hot or red alert day for you, you can't help but get caught up in the V-day frenzy.

I'm spending Valentine's in Singapore. Hopefully, Cupid won't fly and follow me there because I'm slowly developing a phobia towards that armed and dangerous angel whose arrow has hit me many times over but always in the wrong spot.

So in the spirit of Valentine's, here's part 2 of the sounds and scents that remind celebrities of their first love. Lovers change, memories remain. The heart remembers every little and big thing that only love can do.

RUFA GUTIERREZ: "I'd rather talk about what reminds me of my greatest love since my first love is already happily married with kids. For the scent, it's homemade Adobo and grilled baby lamb baking in the oven of our beautiful home. I really miss Turkish food. For the sounds, it's 'Desert Rose Bossa' by Sting. The first time Yilmaz brought me to the desert beach club, Sting was playing. Also, 'Tuk Tuk Likalanda' by Mikey which is a song that's uniquely ours, and 'The Prayer' by Josh Groban which was the song being played when I was walking down the aisle."


SAM Pinto: "Show You How" by T-Pain


DANITA Paner: Exp Girl


JASMINE Curtis: Adidas Deodorant


AGA Muhlach: "Wildflower," the song

AGA MUHLACH: "The scent is Cacao Water because that was my first love's perfume and the song is 'Wildflower' because that was his song for me."

SAM PINTO: "Show You How" by T-Pain and the smell of rain blush reminds me of my happy-go-lucky days with my first romance. I didn't care about anything else because I was too happy being on cloud nine."

LIEZL MARTINEZ: "Albert used to wear Romeo and Black by Ralph Lauren so while I was still studying in the States, I bought that perfume so I can smell it every time I miss him. Stephen Bishop's 'It Might Be You' was our song."

RACHEL ALEJANDRO: "Endless Nit" because that was our farewell song. Carolina Herrera because that was the scent I liked best on him."

JON AVILA: "The alarm sound for the last train at the train station. I would travel two hours on a train just to be with my first love. I was 15 and cellphones weren't a factor at all back then."

JASMINE CURTIS: "For You I Will and Adidas Deodorant."

DANITA PANER: "Everything" by Lifehouse and Exp Girl."

New endorsement

Erich Gonzales is the new face of Caroline Cosmetics. "I hope to live up to the expectations of my fans by being a good role model," she says. "It's tough to work and study at the same time, but I'm doing my best because I don't want to be all beauty and no brains."

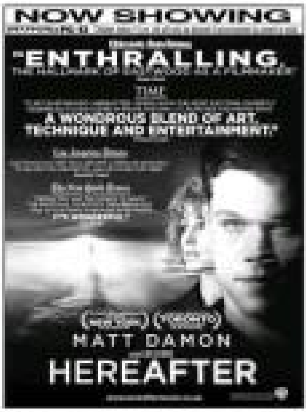
Erich is going over and beyond the call of beauty!

E-mail: [illegible]

Gorgeous couple's engagement rumors ...

Top of the Talk Shows

























Gorgeous couple's engagement rumors suspicious




ANNE Curtis

RUSHES

Diva with a capital G

Diva 2

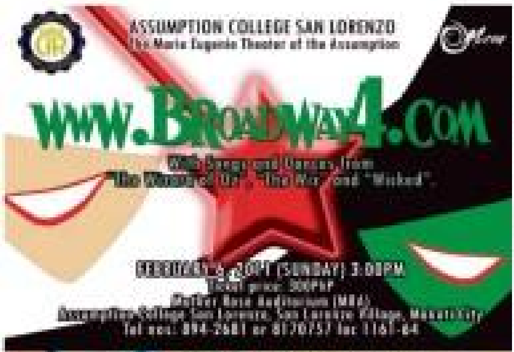
Forgotten but unforgiven

New noontime team

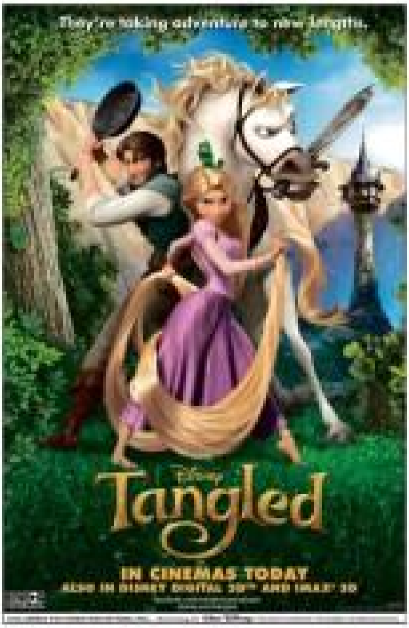
No rush

No, I didn't









Biñan back to its old glory

Before its conversion into a city last year, Biñan was the richest municipality in the country with a gross income reaching P1 billion and a net income of about P300 million

FIRST CITYHOOD ANNIVERSARY

[illegible]

Back to its old glory

[illegible]

Eight-point program

[illegible]



The new city hall, perhaps the most obvious sign of Biñan City's march to progress, was designed by Lucas and Associates and boasts of the most modern facilities



Mayor Len Alonte-Naguiat with her city councilors.

Biñan back to its old glory

ers welfare and ensure the youth's future; 5. Healthcare program where healthcare services are delivered ...; 6. Upgrade the state of peace and order; 7. Environmental protection and regeneration; and, 8. Ensure effective, meaningful and strategic governance.

Perhaps the most obvious evidence of the city's march to progress and its return to its old glory is the completion of its new city hall which will be inaugurated today in time for its first cityhood anniversary.

Located in Barangay Zapote, the new city hall is situated near the Ayala-owned Pavilion Mall, the Brent Subdivision, the Brent International School, and the two industrial parks.

It was designed by Lacsin and Associates and boasts of the most modern facilities. The Filipino accent is embedded in the building as it reflects the image of bahay kubo.

At the back of the new city hall is a five-story building which houses the community college. It currently serves as the PUP campus in Biñan. In four years, it will become the city's own college.

The old city hall in the town proper would be converted into a museum and a library. Located in the Spanish-style poblacion or circle, some of the offices are still there but will soon be transferred to the new city hall.

Alonte-Naguiat says that the conversion of Biñan from a municipality into a city has

SEE P.?

Biñan back to its old glory

Major achievements

Tourism potential



MARLYN ALONTE-NAGUIAT

Gungho about her city







Congratulations
to the 1st Year Anniversary of the
Cityhood of Biñan
CITY OF BIÑAN
Hon. Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte-Naguiat
City Mayor
Greetings from:
UNIVERSITY OF
PERPETUAL HELP
SYSTEM LAGUNA
Sto. Niño, City of Biñan, Laguna
(02) 520-8288 • (049) 411-1106 • (049) 511-9778 loc. 3025

Sombrero, puto: Famous Biñan local industries







Puto Biñan